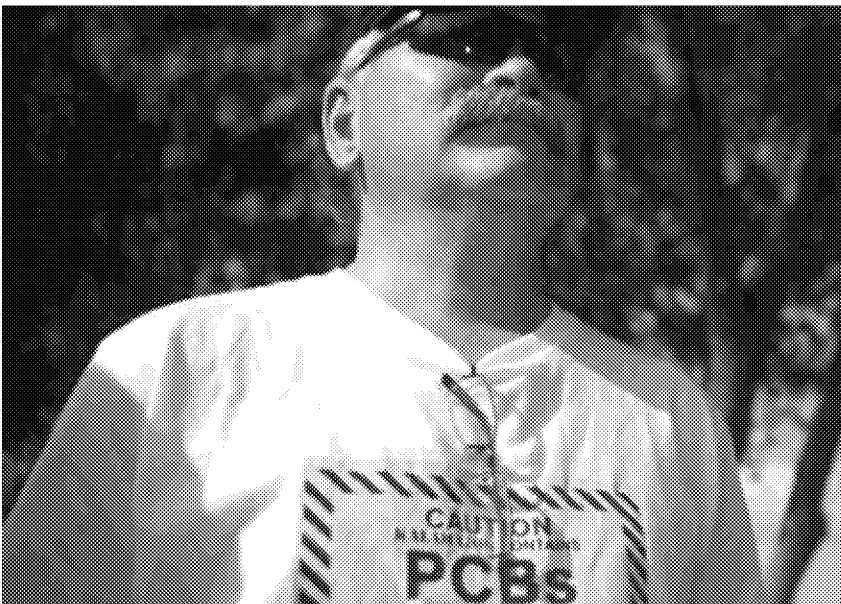
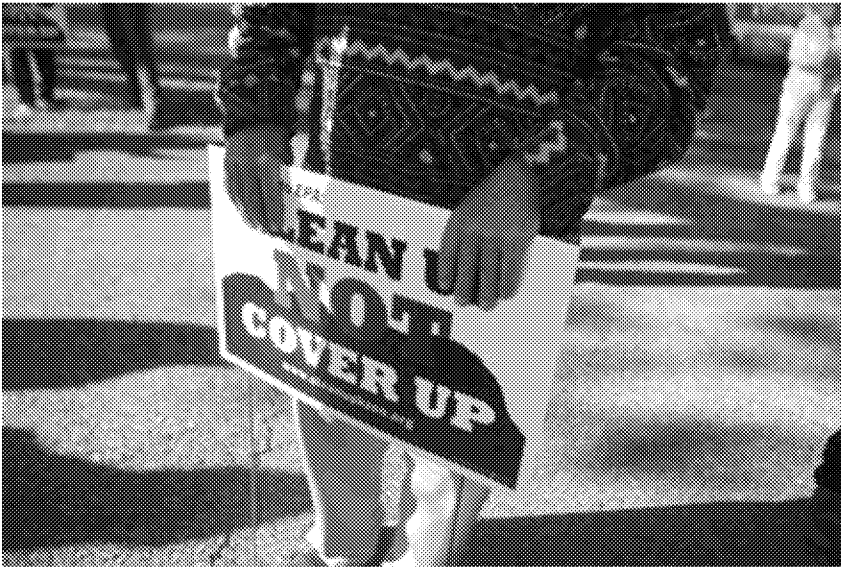
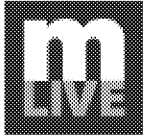


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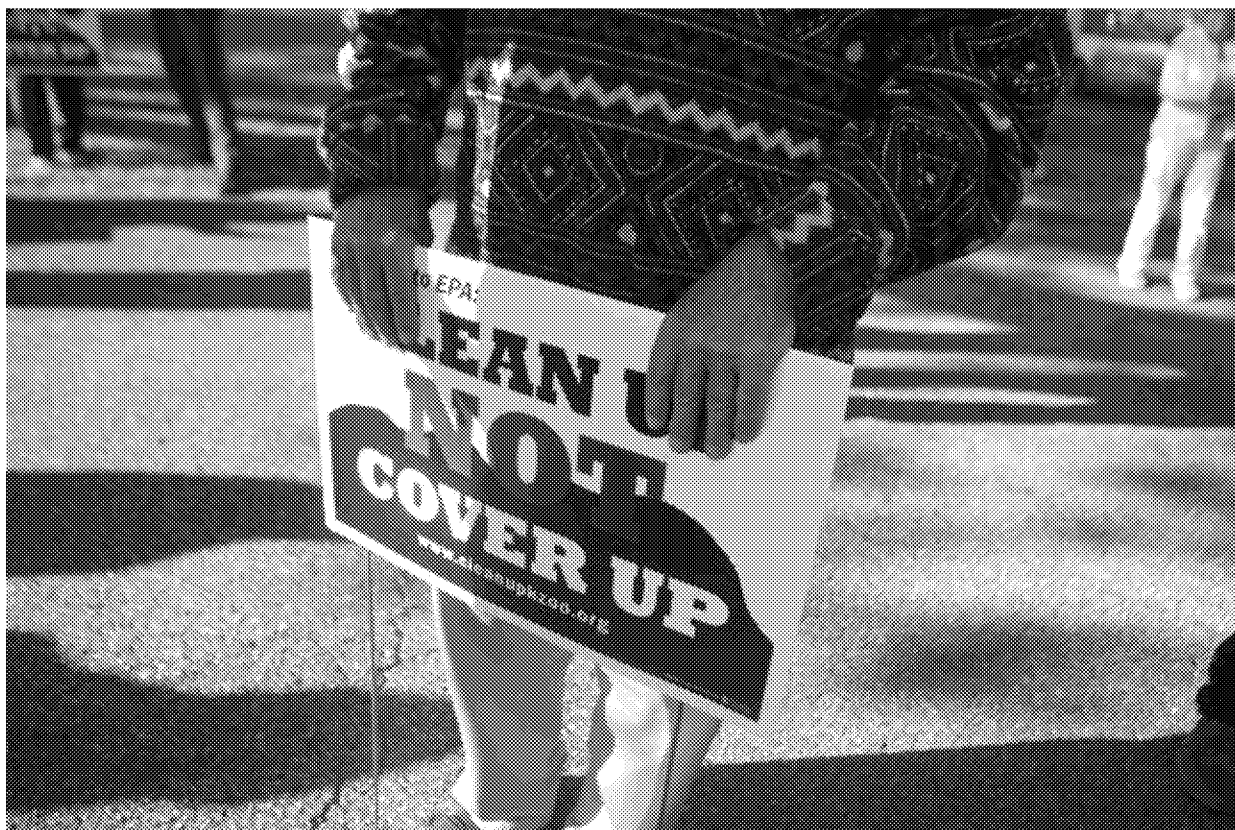
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CC: Rowan, Anne [rowan.anne@epa.gov]; Cannon, Phillippa [Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov]; Arcaute, Francisco [Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov]; Gawlinski, Denise [gawlinski.denise@epa.gov]
Subject: MLive: EPA and Environmental Quality discussing cost to clean Allied Paper site, says Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell at PCB rally



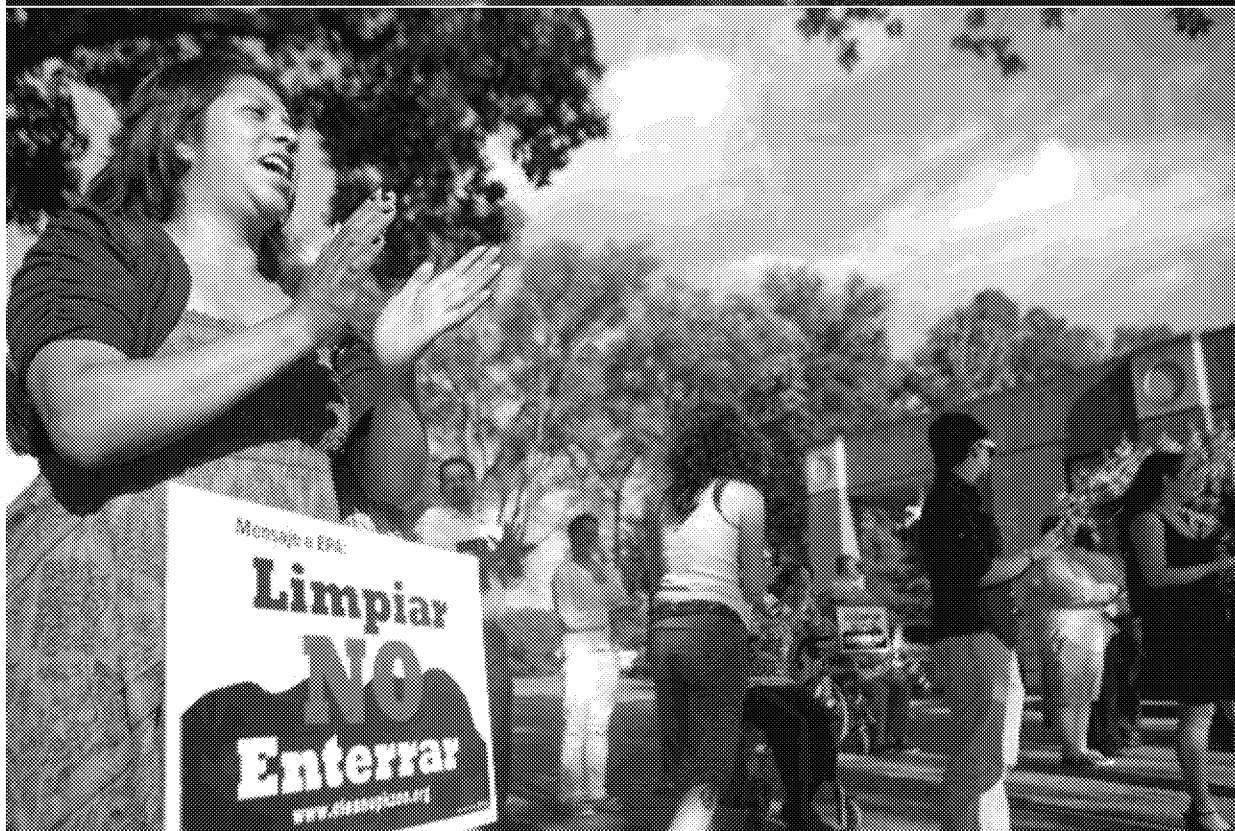


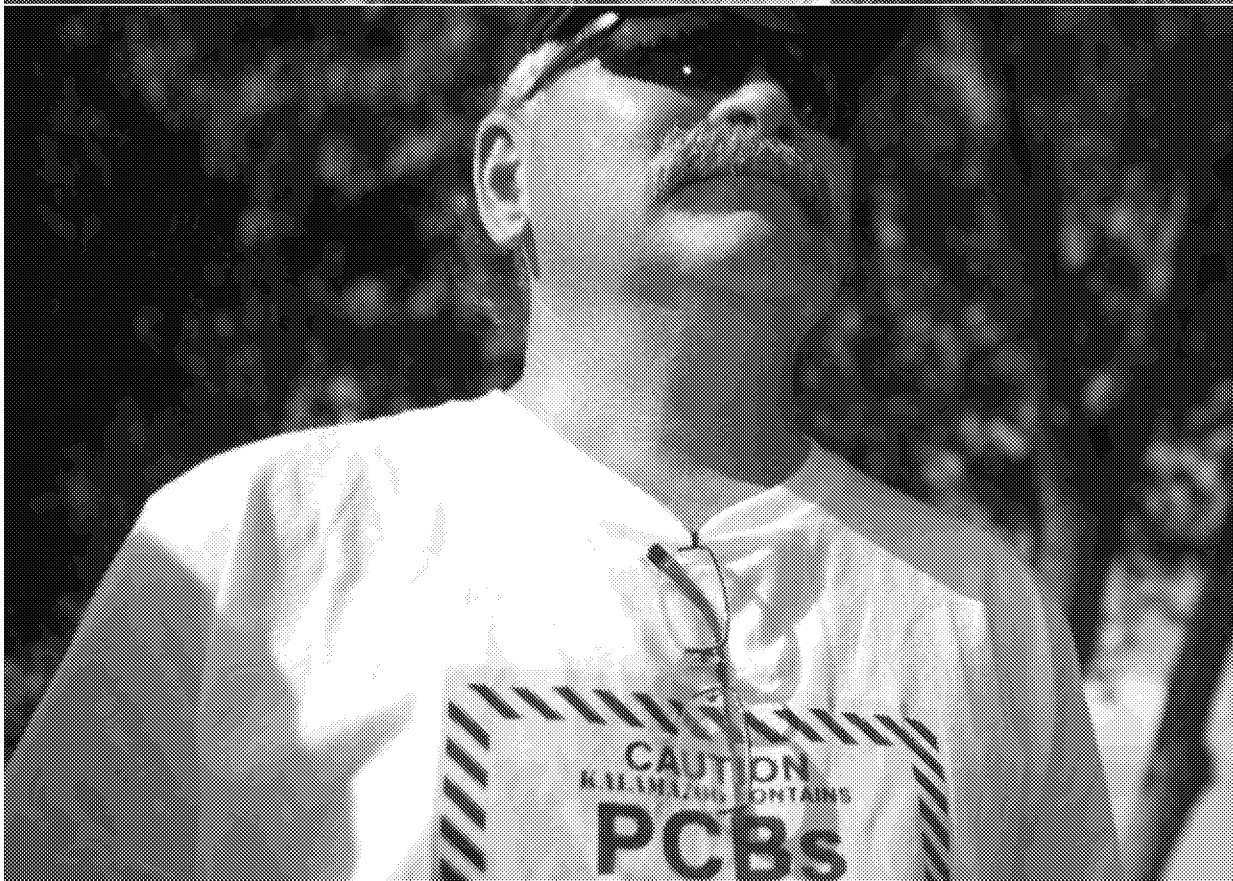
EPA and Environmental Quality discussing cost to clean Allied Paper site, says Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell at PCB rally

Loading Photo Gallery

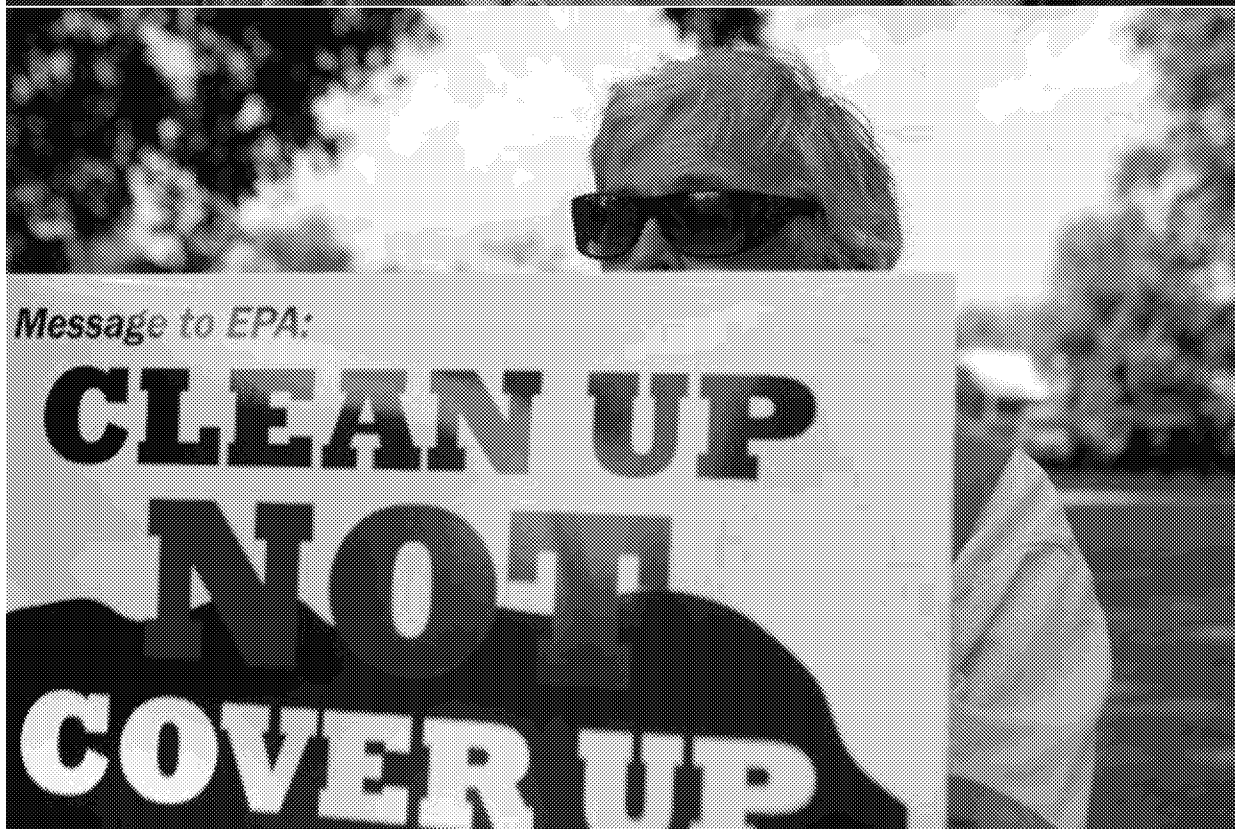


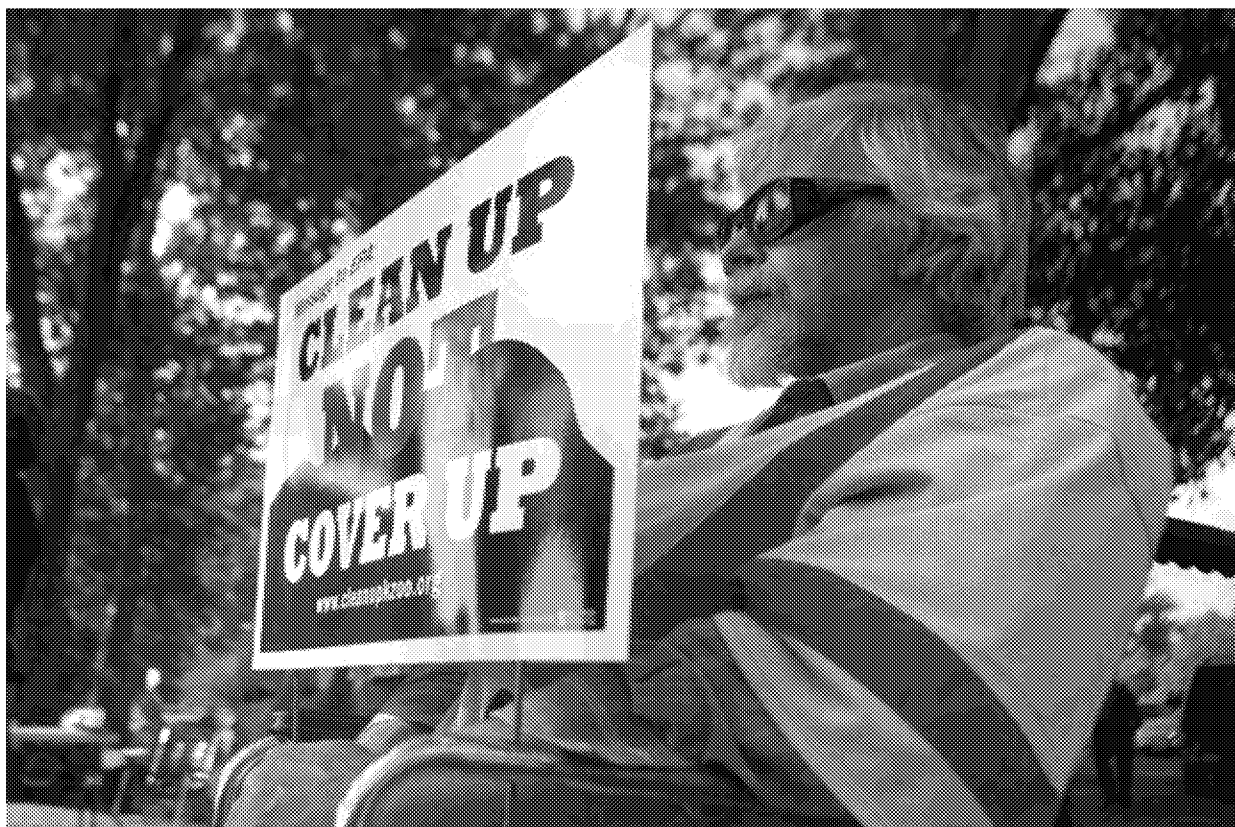












Alex Mitchell | amitch5@mlive.com By **Alex Mitchell | amitch5@mlive.com** The Kalamazoo Gazette
on July 11, 2013 at 8:25 PM, updated July 11, 2013 at 11:09 PM

Editor's Note: The headline and part of the second paragraph have been changed to more accurately convey Bobby Hopewell's statements.

KALAMAZOO, MI — The campaign to convince the Environmental Protection Agency to completely cleanup the **Allied Paper site** may be gaining momentum.

Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell revealed at a **rally** today for the “Clean Up not Cover Up” campaign that the EPA and Environmental Quality, the private Wayne County firm that has been involved in discussions to clean the site, have been comparing the cost of moving the toxic material and recycling uncontaminated material at the site among other tasks.

Hopewell said this information was revealed in a letter he received a today sent by the EPA to a representative of Environmental Quality.

The EPA had previously estimated cleanup of the site would cost \$336 million, while EQ estimated the cost to be \$120 million.

Hopewell said the fact that the two sides are discussing specific parts of the cleanup doesn't necessarily mean that the EPA's total estimate has gone down, but it does show progress.

“At the end of the day, Environmental Quality’s number did go up a bit from the original number you heard, but the gap (has narrowed),” Hopewell told the crowd of roughly 50 supporters gathered at the Water Pumping Station at the intersection of Crosstown Parkway and Park Street.

Funding for the complete removal of polychlorinated biphenyls from the site has been one of the obstacles the cleanup effort has faced.

Millennium Holdings LLC, the site's former owner, left \$50.5 million for cleanup of the site in a bankruptcy trust when the company went bankrupt in 2010, but the group is still unsure where additional funding will come from.

Hopewell was joined by several other speakers at the rally, including State Representative Sean McCann, D-Kalamazoo, County Commissioner David Buskirk and **retired Kalamazoo Public Services Director Bruce Merchant**.

The Allied site sits in the city's Edison neighborhood and has been in the news since March, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a **\$36-million plan** to place a cap on the site and monitor it long term. City officials and community members, instead, want the toxic waste on the site removed to a landfill that can house toxic materials.

While speaking to the crowd, McCann called on the EPA finish the cleanup effort that began six years ago when the community convinced the EPA not to dump additional waste from Plainwell at the Allied site.

“We want the EPA to do their job,” McCann said. “Environmental Protection Agency does not mean leaving deposits here in our town. Do your job EPA. Protect our environment.”

Rico White, a city planning commissioner, said he feels the EPA is dragging its feet until the cleanup campaign loses momentum.

“I think the EPA wants us to forget about the pile of poison and just go home,” White said. “Go back inside, back to our private lives and forget we are part of this vibrant community.”

White announced he will continue the effort with a phone drive next Thursday, July 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Goodwill, 420 E. Alcott St., next to the Allied site.

“We are going to set up tables right at the gate on the site,” White said. “We’re going to call them and tell them that we’re looking out over the site. We see the 80 acres that are fenced off...and we want that poison removed.”

At the conclusion of the rally, Gary Wager, executive director of the Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition, announced the group would likely be having another gathering sometime in August, with updates to come.